

to find an apartment. "I explained to him that people just don't do that," says Barry Rudnick, a Corcoran Group vice president and Nate's broker. Still, they made it work. "I knew what I could afford," Nate says. "Plus, it had to be old. It had to be a one-bedroom. It had to have high ceilings. And it had to make me feel happy." After spending a full afternoon seeing ten places, he naturally decided the last apartment was the one.

"I walked in and I could just picture it immediately, living here," says Nate, who made an offer that day. A few weeks later, the prewar, fourth-floor, 500-square-foot one-bedroom co-op was his. Mission accomplished.

And if the search and purchase took place in a New York minute, that's nothing compared to the lightning-speed renovation that transformed an apartment into a home



ABOVE: A 1999 photograph by Nate's late partner, Fernando Bengoechea, hangs in his kitchen above a 1950s Jacques Adnet leather shelf.

RIGHT: Nate updated his kitchen with a French limestone-topped bar (made out of an old conference table from his former Chicago office), 1950s bar stools from Center44, a stainless-steel backsplash, and a new coat of paint on the existing cabinets.

